

**LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL - MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT SERPENTINE – MONDAY 23 APRIL 2012**

The meeting commenced at 3.30pm with the Prayer.

Present

Cr Geoff Curnow (Mayor)
Cr Neil Beattie
Cr Christine Brooke
Cr Allen Brownbill
Cr Gavan Holt

In Attendance

Mr John McLinden, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Bryan McEwan, Director Economy and Community
Mr Ian McLauchlan, Director of Operations
Mrs Jude Holt, Director Corporate Services

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UNCONFIRMED

1. **APOLOGIES**

Nil

2. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

2.1 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

SUMMARY

Approval of the Forum Minutes of 26 March 2012.

Approval of Ordinary Minutes of 26 March 2012.

Approval of Forum Minutes of 13 April 2012.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the:

1. *minutes of the Council Forum of 26 March 2012 be confirmed*
2. *minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 26 March 2012 be confirmed*
3. *minutes of the Council Forum of 13 April 2012 be confirmed*

MOTION

Moved: Cr Beattie

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the:

1. minutes of the Council Forum of 26 March 2012 be confirmed
2. minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 26 March 2012 be confirmed
3. minutes of the Council Forum of 13 April 2012 be confirmed

Carried

2.2 **REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET**

SUMMARY

Approval of Action Sheet.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: 2.2 Action Sheet

RECOMMENDATION

That the Action Sheet be received and noted.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the Action Sheet be received and noted.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

3. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

SUMMARY

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No:

Attachment: Copies of inwards correspondence

RECOMMENDATION

That the Inwards Correspondence be received and noted.

Date	Signatory	Subject
5/4/12	Bruce Winzar, Chairman, NBN4 Bendigo Loddon Mallee	Bendigo Successful in NBN Rollout Announcement
10/4/12	Coliban Water	East Loddon Pipeline connection completed

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That the Inwards Correspondence be received and noted.

Carried

4. COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

4.1 MAYORAL REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of the Mayoral Report.

Author: John McLinden – Chief Executive Officer
 File No: 02/01/001
 Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
Nil	
Municipal Fire Management Plan	
Central Murray Region Waste Management Group	
Other Council Activities	
30/3/12	Attended the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program Vision for the Region dinner in Bendigo
1/4/12	Attended centenary celebration of St Saviours Church, Serpentine
3/4/12	MRGC Dinner at Wedderburn – 12 guests
4/4/12	MRGC meeting hosted by Loddon Shire
5/4/12	Met with Bridgewater Inc. representatives and Bryan McEwan to discuss planning for Bridgewater Caravan Park
9/4/12	Attended Rheola Easter Charity Carnival with Cr Brownbill, Hon. Peter Walsh and Senator Bridget McKenzie
13/4/12	Attended meeting with Minister Matthew Guy, Minister Peter Walsh, Councillors and staff to discuss zoning and planning

13/4/12	Attended the launch of Bridgewater Inc. with Cr Brownbill and Member for Murray Dr Sharman Stone and about 70 attendees
14/4/12	Attended the opening of the new netball tennis courts at Mitiamo
15/4/12	Attended the opening of the mosaic and quilting exhibition at Wedderburn's Coach House Gallery – 2 local Wedderburn artists
16/4/12	Photo shoot at Wedderburn Medical Centre site
17/4/12	Attended Tarnagulla Town Fire Plan Meeting, the plan was distributed
18/4/12 – 20/4/12	Attended RCV's Rural Summit 2012 at Port Fairy
22/4/12	Attended the music recital at Inglewood Anglican church
23/4/12	Loddon Shire Council Meeting at Serpentine

MOTION**Moved: Cr Holt****Seconded: Cr Brownbill**

That the Mayoral Report be received and noted.

Carried

4.2 COUNCILLORS' REPORT

SUMMARY

Approval of Councillors' Reports

Author: John McLinden – Chief Executive Officer

File No: 02/01/001

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Councillors' Reports be received and noted.

Cr Brooke

North Central Goldfields Regional Library	
5/4/12	Finance Committee meeting
Loddon Youth Committee	
Nil Report	
Recreation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee	
Nil	
Nature Tourism Steering Committee	
Nil	
Other Council Activities	
3/4/12	East Loddon Lions – special dinner at John and Faye Forbes – Ron Vinnicombe presented with major award
13/4/12	Meeting with Ministers Guy and Walsh at Wedderburn
17/4/12	Pyramid Hill Community Planning meeting
18/4/12	Pyramid Hill Progress Association
23/4/12	Council meeting Serpentine

Cr Brownbill

Municipal Association of Victoria	
Nil Report	

Municipal Association of Victoria Strategic Environment Advisory Group	
Nil Report	
Municipal Emergency Management Plan Committee	
Healthy Minds Network	
Nil Report	
Other Council Activities	
29/3/12	Transport Connections meeting, Morwell
12/4/12	MAV Environment meeting
13/4/12	Presentation to Minister Guy on Rural Zones Review
	Bridgewater Inc. launch by Dr Sharman Stone
18/4/12	Healthy Minds meeting

Cr Beattie

Murray Darling Association	
Nil Report	
Boort Aerodrome Committee	
Nil Report	
Little Lake Boort Management	
10/4/12	Chaired meeting with discussion on lake draining with the boardwalk construction about to begin
Other Council Activities	
1/4/12	Opened Boort Golf Club's season
2/4/12	Attended Boort Development Committee meeting
3/4/12	Chaired Boort Tourism AGM
8/4/12	Visited Boort Annual Easter Tennis Tournament
13/4/12	Attended Council Forum and Minister Guy's visit

17/4/12	Attended Boort Senior Citizens meeting
20/4/12	Attended Boort Park meeting
23/4/12	Attended Council meeting Serpentine

Cr Holt

Municipal Association of Victoria (substitute)	
Nil	
Calder Highway Improvement Committee	
Nil	
Australia Day Committee	
Nil	
Audit Committee	
Nil	
Other Council Activities	
DATE	Activity
27/3/12	Attended Wedderburn Community Bank Steering Committee meeting
28/3/12	Attended monthly meeting of the Wedderburn Development Association
30/3/12	Attended Wedderburn Community House Board meeting
10/4/12	Attended meeting of the Wedderburn Community Centre management committee
11/4/12	Attended Wedderburn Community Bank Steering Committee meeting. Good progress is being made towards the establishment of a community bank with over 50% of targets being reached
13/4/12	With councillors and staff, met with Planning Minister Guy and local member Peter Walsh to further progress Loddon shire's Rurla Zones Review
14/4/12	Attended the Wedderburn St Arnaud winter sports day at St Arnaud
19/4/12	Attended meeting in Bendigo of Loddon Mallee Regional Development Australia Committee

19/4/12	Deputised for Mayor at meeting in Bendigo with Senator Barnaby Joyce and Senator Bridget McKenzie to discuss matters of concern to Loddon Shire in particular and the region in general
21/4/12	Attended the Wedderburn Birchip winter sports day at Wedderburn

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That the Councillors' Reports be received and noted.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

5.1 DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with a list of documents signed and sealed during the month.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer
File No: 02/01/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. the 'Document for Signing and Sealing' report be received and noted
2. Council endorse the use of the seal on the documents listed

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

N/A

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Transfer of land from Loddon Shire Council to DH and LR Lloyd – Volume 10453 Folio 085

Form of agreement for Contract 219 Rehabilitation, Resheet and Widening and Associated Drainage Works on the Echuca Serpentine, Dingee Serpentine and Dunns roads, between Bitumill (Vic) Pty Ltd and Loddon Shire Council

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That:

1. the 'Document for Signing and Sealing' report be received and noted
2. Council endorse the use of the seal on the documents listed

Carried

5.2 NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDAL

SUMMARY

Reporting progress with advocating for the striking of a National Emergency Medal for the Victorian 2011 floods.

Author: John McLinden - Chief Executive Officer

File No:

Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. write to all members of Parliament and municipalities who have supported this proposal advising them of the overwhelming support for the striking of a National Emergency Medal to recognise the Victorian floods of January 2011*
- 2. correspond with the Pyramid Hill Progress Association keeping the organisation informed of progress.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council, at its meeting of 27 February, resolved that Council write to the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat and advocate for the inclusion of a clasp in recognition of the service of people involved in the 2011 Victorian floods.

BACKGROUND

This resolution was prompted by discussion introduced by Cr Brooke who had recently attended the Pyramid Hill Progress Association meeting where the issue was raised.

Following Council's resolution, correspondence was sent to the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat with copies of correspondence also forwarded to neighbouring municipalities in the Loddon Campaspe Councils and the Murray River Group of Councils and all local state and federal members.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The response from neighbouring municipalities and from Council's local members has been overwhelming. Eight local members have written to the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat supporting Council's proposal, with three letters of support from adjoining municipalities also forwarded to Canberra.

It is suggested that Council should write to all members of Parliament and municipalities who have supported this proposal advising them of the overwhelming support for the striking of a National Emergency Medal to recognise the Victorian floods of January 2011 and to correspond with the Pyramid Hill Progress Association keeping the organisation informed of progress.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council:

1. write to all members of Parliament and municipalities who have supported this proposal advising them of the overwhelming support for the striking of a National Emergency Medal to recognise the Victorian floods of January 2011
2. correspond with the Pyramid Hill Progress Association keeping the organisation informed of progress.

Carried

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6. DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES' REPORTS

6.1 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2012

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with financial information for the period ending 31 March 2012.

Author: James Rendell - Manager Financial Services
File No: 05/04/001
Attachment: 6.1

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Receives and notes the "Finance Report for the period ending 31 March 2012"*
2. *Approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council is provided with Finance Reports on a monthly basis.

BACKGROUND

The Finance Report for the period ended 31 March 2012 includes standard monthly information about budget variations, cash, investments, interest, debtors, and creditors, and provides a comparison of year-to-date budget to year-to-date actual results.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Nil

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council:

1. *Receives and notes the "Finance Report for the period ending 31 March 2012"*
2. *Approves budget revisions included in the report for internal reporting purposes only.*

Carried

6.2 2012 REVALUATION INFORMATION REPORT

SUMMARY

This report informs Council about milestones and progress of the 2012 Revaluation.

Author: Jude Holt – Director Corporate Services
 File No: 09/01/001
 Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the “2012 Revaluation Information Report”.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was provided with an update report at the Ordinary Meeting held on 23 January 2012.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Valuation Best Practice, Council undertakes a revaluation of all properties in the Shire every 2 years. The prescribed date for the next revaluation is 1 January 2012, and that valuation data will be used for the 2012/2013 budget.

Council undertakes its revaluation process via external contractor, and LG Valuations Pty. Ltd. (LG) is currently in the process of revaluing properties in the Shire.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Valuation Best Practice outlines milestone dates for the return of information during the revaluation process. This is to ensure that Council has a Valuation Return by the final due date of 30 April, 2012. The milestone dates for the 2012 revaluation are:

Stage	Details	Due Date	Date Lodged with VGV	Date Certified by VGV
Stage 1	Statistical Analysis	28 February 2011	28 February 2011	30 March 2011
Stage 2	Residential & Rural Preliminary Valuations			
	- Rural	31 October 2011	11 October 2011	25 November 2011
	- Residential	31 October 2011	25 October 2011	30 November 2011
Stage 3A	Specialist Properties	31 August 2011	22 August 2011	19 December 2011
Stage 3B	Commercial & Industrial	31 January 2012	23 December 2011	30 January 2012
Stage 4	Residential & Rural Final Valuations			
	- Rural	31 March 2012	19 March 2012	
	- Residential	31 March 2012	16 March 2012	
Stage 5	Valuation Return	30 April 2012		

Stage 1:

Stage 1 includes preparation, planning and statistical analysis of the previous valuation against recent sales.

Stage 1 was lodged with the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) on 28 February 2011, and a 7A Certificate was received on 30 March 2011.

A 7A Certificate is authorisation of the revaluation stage by VGV and states that:

- The required documentation and evidence has been provided
- The work is in accordance with the standards required by VGV for the 2012 General Valuation
- The work is considered satisfactory by VGV.

Stage 2:

Stage 2 includes the largest body of work – Rural and Residential properties. This stage is the preliminary work required for those properties, where the majority of inspections and field data verification is completed. A final review of values for these properties occurs in Stage 4.

Due to the size of the data, Stage 2 is normally lodged in two parts – Rural and Residential. Stage 2 Rural was lodged with VGV on 11 October 2011 and was certified by the VGV on 25 November 2011. Stage 2 Residential was lodged with VGV on 25 October 2011 and was certified by the VGV on 30 November 2011.

Stage 3A:

Stage 3A includes 14 specialist properties that Council has nominated in the contract as being unusual, due to size or nature. It includes chicken farms, olive groves, piggeries, and other commercial properties.

Stage 3A was lodged with VGV on 22 August 2011, and Council received the 7A Certificate on 19 December 2011.

Stage 3B:

Stage 3B is Commercial and Industrial properties. This stage was lodged with VGV on 23 December 2011 and was certified by VGV on 30 January 2012.

Stage 4:

Stage 4 is a review of Stage 2 data based on an analysis of subsequent sales. This stage is due on 31 March 2012.

Stage 4 Residential was lodged with the VGV on 16 March 2012 and had not been certified at the time of preparing this report.

Stage 4 Rural was lodged with the VGV on 19 March 2012 and had not been certified at the time of preparing this report.

Stage 5:

Stage 5 is the return of the valuation to Council, and includes the valuer's final report. This stage is due on 30 April 2012.

Certification of this stage is critical for Council's budget process, as the new valuation will be used as a basis for raising rates in the first year after return. Council does not resolve to advertise the budget until certification has been received, to ensure that the valuation base does not change.

Some flexibility may be required in the timing of the Council Meetings involving resolutions to advertise the budget and to adopt the budget due to reliance on Stage 5 certification.

Progress to Date:

Council's valuer, LG Valuations, has reached each of the milestones by the due date, and in the case of Stage 3B, was well ahead of the due date.

They will be in attendance at the Council Forum to be held in April to provide Council with an analysis of the revaluation process and movements in valuations across the Shire over the 2 year period.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council receives and notes the "2012 Revaluation Information Report".

Carried

6.3 AUDIT COMMITTEE REMUNERATION

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval to increase the remuneration paid to independent members of Council's Audit Committee.

Author: Jude Holt – Director Corporate Services
File No: 06/02/003
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. *Increases the quarterly remuneration paid to independent members of the Audit Committee to \$400, effective the quarter commencing 1 May 2012*
2. *Retains payment of an extra quarter remuneration to the Chair during a one year term*
3. *Retains a travel reimbursement for independent members of the Audit Committee, paid at the rate that Councillors are reimbursed for travel.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council was provided with an Audit Committee Remuneration Report at the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 June 2011, where Council resolved to:

1. Increases the quarterly remuneration paid to independent members of the Audit Committee to \$387, effective the quarter commencing 1 May 2012
2. Index the quarterly remuneration paid to independent members of the Audit Committee annually on 1 May, based on the December Consumer Price Index for All Groups – Melbourne
3. Retain payment of an extra quarter remuneration to the Chair during a one year term
4. Introduce a travel reimbursement for independent members of the Audit Committee, paid at the rate that Councillors are reimbursed for travel, effective the quarter commencing 1 May 2012.

BACKGROUND

The Consumer Price Index for All Groups – Melbourne for December has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The indexation factor is 3.1%.

Application of 3.1% to the Audit Committee's current remuneration of \$387 per quarter calculates to \$399 per quarter. This report recommends that this amount be rounded to \$400 per quarter.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Last year's report confirmed Council's commitment of an extra quarterly payment to the Chair during a one-year term. This payment recognises the additional responsibility held by the Chair.

It also introduced a travel reimbursement to be paid to independent members at the same rate as the Councillors' travel reimbursement.

This report recommends that the travel reimbursement and extra payment for the Chair be retained.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council:

1. Increases the quarterly remuneration paid to independent members of the Audit Committee to \$400, effective the quarter commencing 1 May 2012
2. Retains payment of an extra quarter remuneration to the Chair during a one year term
3. Retains a travel reimbursement for independent members of the Audit Committee, paid at the rate that Councillors are reimbursed for travel.

Carried

UNCONFIDENTIAL

**6.4 SECTION 86 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT AMENDED INSTRUMENTS OF DELEGATION:
BOORT AERODROME COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
BOORT MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**

SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval of amended Instruments of Delegation for Boort Aerodrome Committee of Management and Boort Memorial Hall Committee of Management.

Author: Jude Holt
File No: 02/01/007
02/01/010
Attachment: 6.4(a) Boort Aerodrome Committee of Management Instrument of Delegation
6.4(b) Boort Memorial Hall Committee of Management Instrument of Delegation

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves:

- 1. The amended Instrument of Delegation for Boort Aerodrome Committee of Management*
- 2. The amended Instrument of Delegation for Boort Memorial Hall Committee of Management.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council received amended Instruments of Delegation for the Boort Aerodrome Committee of Management and Boort Memorial Hall committee of Management at the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 26 March 2012.

However, Council was not satisfied that there was clear direction on how members are appointed to special committees, and asked that further amendments be applied to the delegations.

BACKGROUND

As instructed the delegations have been amended to provide clear direction on how members are appointed to special committees. They have also been amended to provide much stronger reference to the requirements of Section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Amendment of the documents has also provided the opportunity to place them in Council's newly developed strategic document template.

The draft delegations have been provided to Council for consideration as Attachments 6.4(a) and 6.4(b).

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Nil

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council approves:

1. The amended Instrument of Delegation for Boort Aerodrome Committee of Management
2. The amended Instrument of Delegation for Boort Memorial Hall Committee of Management.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

7. DIRECTOR OPERATIONS' REPORTS

7.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED

SUMMARY

Attachment 7.1 provides Council with a full list of planning applications currently under consideration and those planning permits issued between 1 and 31 March 2012.

Author: Tyson Sutton – Manager Planning and Local Laws
File No: 02/01/001
Attachment: 7.1 Planning Applications

RECOMMENDATION

That 'Planning Applications Currently Being Processed' report be received and noted.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil

BACKGROUND

Nil

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

Nil

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That 'Planning Applications Currently Being Processed' report be received and noted.

Carried

7.2 RURAL ZONES REVIEW

SUMMARY

Report presents Council with the final version of the Rural Zones Review document for formal consideration and adoption.

Author: Tyson Sutton – Manager Planning and Local Laws
File No: 13/01/001
Attachment: Rural Zones Review

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Adopt the Rural Zones Review including the alterations made in accordance with Council deliberations conducted at the Special Forum held on 16 March 2012.*
- 2. Resolve to prepare amendments to the Loddon Planning Scheme to implement the recommendations of the Rural Zones Review.*

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A presentation of an early draft of the Rural Zones Review was made to Council during the forum of 27 September 2010.

At its ordinary meeting on 25 July 2011 Council considered a recommendation to exhibit the draft review. Council resolved to defer exhibition of the draft review pending further time to consider the contents of the document.

At its ordinary meeting on 22 August 2011 Council resolved to exhibit the draft review.

At its ordinary meeting on 23 January 2012 Council considered a preliminary assessment of the submissions to the review ahead of a special forum conducted on 8 February 2012 during which Council heard four presentations and considered all submissions to the review.

On 16 March 2012 a further special forum was conducted during which Council considered the recommendations of the Rural Zones Review prior to finalisation of the document and subsequent presentation to a formal Council meeting for adoption.

BACKGROUND

Agriculture is the most significant economic activity within the Loddon Shire in terms of both value and employment. It is also the dominant land use across the municipality. The Farming Zone is designed to protect farmland for productive uses.

The Farming Zone is the most extensively applied zone in the Loddon Planning Scheme and has a strong influence on the economy and ongoing development of the Shire. The zone was

introduced in June 2007 by a Ministerial Amendment without any strategic assessment of its application. As such it has been inappropriately applied in several locations.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

A review of the rural zones in the Loddon Planning Scheme has been undertaken. The review focuses on three main elements which are as follows:

1. Identifying and rezoning areas that have limited or no agricultural prospects, such as remnant vegetation and highly fragmented and developed land that was inappropriately translated into the Farming Zone
2. Updating subdivision and dwelling controls to ensure that they support Council's strategic position of supporting agricultural growth and development
3. Developing a local policy position on rural land use issues such as renewable energy development and rural industry.

The Loddon Shire Rural Zones Review investigated the strategic context of rural land, the current situation and outlook for agriculture, land use trends, the application of the rural zones, subdivision and dwelling controls and specific uses that may affect rural land. The review presents 15 recommendations. The recommendations can be categorised under the following headings:

- Rezoning of land
- Changes to the subdivision and dwelling controls of the Farming Zone
- Policy change.

The key findings of the review are as follows:

- Agriculture is by far the largest economic sector in the Loddon Shire and is the biggest employer.
- Agriculture in the Shire includes broadacre dryland farms producing grains and livestock and irrigated farms producing livestock, grains, milk, fruit and vegetables.
- The agricultural sector was worth around \$200 million in 2006.
- Key assets of the Shire include broadacre land suited to cropping and grazing, high quality soils suited to intensive horticulture, water provided via irrigation networks, Loddon River and groundwater supplies and rural areas with low development and population density.
- Farm sizes in Loddon are increasing, with farms consolidating and amalgamating to keep pace with terms of trade.
- The irrigation area in the north is contracting, but is being upgraded to deliver a more efficient system.
- The trend of farm expansion will continue into the future and the ability for farms to acquire additional land will be significant in terms of their ongoing viability.

- The reduction of irrigation land will increase its value and significance in terms of food production. Irrigated land should be protected from land use change or development that would compromise its agricultural potential.
- Some areas of land in the south of the Shire have been fragmented and developed to the point that retaining them in the Farming Zone is unrealistic.

The review developed a series of recommendations based on these key findings. The recommendations include changes to the subdivision and dwelling controls of the Farming Zone and application of new or strengthened policies to guide assessment of applications. The review also recommends rezoning a number of areas where the application of the Farming Zone is considered to be inappropriate.

The exhibition of the draft Loddon Shire Rural Zones Review commenced in September 2011 and was completed on 22 December 2011. The exhibition consisted of the following:

- notice in 3 locally circulating newspapers (Loddon Times, Northern Times and Bendigo Advertiser)
- notice in 2 community newsletters (Pyramid Hill Press, East Loddon Community News)
- two public meetings (with a combined total of approximately 300 residents in attendance)
- letters to 542 affected landowners
- numerous mayoral columns
- letters to 6 statutory authorities
- letters to special interest groups such as the VFF and local conservation bodies
- meetings with local real estate agents.

At the close of the exhibition period a total of 61 submissions had been received including 4 from statutory authorities and 1 petition. A significant proportion of submissions were from land owners in the McIntyre/Moliagul area. An analysis of the submissions was undertaken and a summary of the various positions may be seen below:

Position	Number of Submissions
Support the draft review recommendations	5
Oppose the draft review recommendations	42
Neutral	5
Unclear	5

A number of themes were identified throughout many of the submissions, including that:

- the land identified for potential rezoning formed part of an existing agricultural enterprise
- the proposed zone was unsuitable for the existing/proposed land use
- rezoning the land as recommended would result in a loss of property value
- the introduction of the Rural Conservation Zone would impose unfair restrictions/obligations on landowners
- landowners would prefer an alternative zone be applied instead of the Rural Conservation Zone.

A total of 5 submitters requested the opportunity to speak to their submission before Council. A special forum was held on 8 February 2012 to hear these presentations as well as review and consider the contents of all written submissions received.

A further special Council forum was conducted on 16 March 2012 during which detailed consideration of specific policy and rezoning recommendations was undertaken. Following consideration of community and authority submissions as well as Council staff recommendations and technical advice, it was requested that the draft review document recommendations be amended to reflect the following:

Recommendations 1-7: Rezone Land from the Farming Zone

Locality	Investigation Area	Officer's Recommendation	Amended Recommendation
Wedderburn	Gregson Road / Clifden Lane	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Josephine Drive	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Wallaby Way	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Bocca Flat	Rural Living Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Skinnners Flat – north	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
	Ainsworth Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Farming Zone
	Woolshed Flat	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Wedderburn Cemetery	Public Use Zone	Public Use Zone
Nine Mile	Nine Mile South Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
Mt Korong	Wedderburn Serpentine Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
Inglewood	Inglewood Salisbury Road	Rural Activity Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Inglewood Cemetery	Public Use Zone	Public Use Zone
Kingower	Nyanaghul Road	Rural Activity Zone	Rural Activity Zone
	Kingower Brenanah Road	Rural Activity Zone	Rural Activity Zone
	Wehla Kingower Road (east)	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
	Wehla Kingower Road (west)	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Halls Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
	Kingower Cemetery	Public Use Zone	Public Use Zone

Locality	Investigation Area	Officer's Recommendation	Amended Recommendation
Brenanah	Kingower Wedderburn Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Brenanah Wehla Road (east)	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
	Brenanah Wehla Road (west)	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
Wehla	Logan Wehla Rheola Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Birthisel Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
Fentons Creek	Wheelhouse Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
Llanelly	Wimmera Highway	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
	Old Tarnagulla Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
Tarnagulla	Tarnagulla Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
	Tarnagulla Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	State forest to the north and east of the Tarnagulla township	Public Conservation and Resource Zone	Public Conservation and Resource Zone
Laanecoorie	Ramon Parade	Rural Activity Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Existing non-rural extent of Laanecoorie Township	Township Zone	Township Zone
	Laanecoorie water treatment plant	Public Use Zone	Public Use Zone
	Laanecoorie riverside	Public Conservation and Resource Zone	Public Conservation and Resource Zone
McIntyre	McIntyre township	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Burkes Flat McIntyre Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Farming Zone

Locality	Investigation Area	Officer's Recommendation	Amended Recommendation
Moliagul	Chinamans Lane	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Moliagul Drive / Mason Drive	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Living Zone
	Cherry Gardens Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
Rheola	Rheola Arnold Road	Rural Conservation Zone	Rural Conservation Zone
	Rheola Cemetery	Public Use Zone	Public Use Zone
Newbridge	Newbridge recreation reserve	Public Park and Recreation Zone	Public Park and Recreation Zone
Bridgewater	Land occupied by the Bridgewater Pubic Caravan park	Public Conservation and Resource Zone	Public Conservation and Resource Zone
Loddon River Corridor	Those sections of Crown Land forming part of the Loddon River corridor that are contained within the Farming Zone.	Public Conservation and Resource Zone	Public Conservation and Resource Zone
Skidders Flat	Skidders Flat Reservoir	Public Use Zone	Public Use Zone
Boort	Boort Cemetery	Public Use Zone	Public Use Zone
Pyramid Hill	Pyramid Hill Cemetery	Public Use Zone	Public Use Zone
Yarrayne	Yarrayne Cemetery	Public Use Zone	Public Use Zone
Eddington	Eddington Cemetery	Public Use Zone	Public Use Zone

Recommendation 8

Change the subdivision controls of the Farming Zone as follows:

Land		Existing	Officer's Recommendation	Final Recommendation
Minimum subdivision area (hectares)	Land within the GMID that is currently irrigated, set up for irrigation or a commitment or agreement has been put in place to enable the land to be irrigated following subdivision <u>and</u> where the land is likely to remain irrigated by virtue of infrastructure, soil type or proximity to water source.	20ha	40ha	40ha
	All other land	100ha	100ha	100ha

Recommendation 9

Incorporate the following statement into Clause 22.05 to improve the guidance provided by this policy.

- Subdivision in the Farming Zone should generally not create additional lots (i.e. Property restructure should be used in preference).
- Subdivision in the Farming Zone should be clearly based on an improved productive farming outcome that cannot be achieved with the current lot size.
- The proposal must provide for ongoing productive, economic agriculture.

Information demonstrating the above must be provided with a planning permit application, including:

- farm business plan that demonstrates the intended output of the farming enterprise in terms of production and value and long term viability
- whole farm plan that demonstrates the subdivision has been designed with consideration of the land quality and capability of the site and will therefore support enhanced productivity.

Recommendation 10:

Remove the policy that provides for lots smaller than the minimum specified size from Clause 22.05 of the Loddon Planning Scheme.

Recommendation 11:

Include the following policy in the Planning Scheme to provide guidance in assessing applications for house lot excisions in the Farming Zone and replace the existing policy.

The Responsible Authority will only support house lot excisions where:

- The benefit from the removal of the dwelling from the land clearly and significantly outweighs the risk of having a residential land use adjoining a farming property in terms of supporting the growth and ongoing viability of agriculture in the Shire.
- The purpose of the house lot excision is to facilitate property consolidation. House lot excisions will not be approved where they are for capital raising only as this is not a long term land use planning outcome.
- There is a significant risk that the property will be lost to agriculture while it still contains a dwelling (i.e. the whole property will become a rural living property as the farmer cannot compete with other land purchasers for the property).
- The dwelling is a significant encumbrance on the property due to its quality and value (i.e. poor quality, older houses will not add substantially to the value of the property and will generally not be considered to be a significant encumbrance.)
- Dwellings excised under the Farming Zone provisions are to be in a habitable condition and comply with the Building Code of Australia.
- It is clear that a dwelling is not required for the farming use of the property.
- It can be demonstrated that it is likely that farming can be continued on the balance unhindered.
- The minimum area is taken out of the balance property. The house and immediate surrounds should only be excised, and generally a maximum of 1ha is sufficient. A rural living / hobby farm should not be created.
- The dwelling and therefore excised lot is on the frontage of the property. Long narrow lots or battle axe lots should be avoided as the additional boundary increases the risk of land use conflict and increases the amount of land lost to agriculture.
- The dwelling is serviced by a sealed road or a rural gravel access road.
- An application for a house lot excision must be advertised to surrounding land owners / occupiers.
- It is preferred that a house lot excision be in the form of a boundary restructure, not the creation of an additional lot. The balance lot should meet the minimum size for the zone.
- Subdivision that is likely to lead to such a concentration of lots as to change the general use and character of a rural area, and is not consistent with the purposes of the Zone, will be strongly discouraged.

Recommendation 12:

Strengthen controls on dwelling development in Farming zoned areas by increasing the permit trigger in the schedule to the Farming Zone to 100ha (thereby requiring a permit for use of a lot of less than 100ha for a dwelling) to ensure that any dwelling proposed is ancillary and required to promote the agricultural use of the land.

Recommendation 13:

a) Include the following policy statements in Clause 22.05 to require more detailed information to be submitted with a planning permit application to demonstrate the farming use of the land and why the dwelling is required to enhance this:

- Council will support the construction of a dwelling on land zoned Farming where it can be demonstrated that the construction of the dwelling is required to enhance the agricultural output of the land and that the dwelling is and is likely to remain ancillary to the farming use of the property.
- The agricultural use of the land that the new dwelling is required to support must be established prior to construction of the dwelling.
- An application for a new dwelling in the Farming Zone will be advertised to surrounding land owners / occupiers.
- Council may require the following information to support an application for a new dwelling where a new farm business is proposed:
 - A farm business plan that shows:
 - why there is a need to live on site and how that would enhance agricultural use
 - the investment into agriculture on the property
 - the estimated return from the agricultural pursuit
 - the amount of land to be engaged in farming, and
 - the estimated production from the property; or
 - A whole farm plan that shows;
 - the layout of agricultural uses on the property to demonstrate that the majority of the property is used for farming.
 - the dwelling is located in such a way to minimise any impact on agricultural use on the subject property and adjoining properties. The dwelling should be located on an area of lower agricultural quality and should be sited and designed to minimise the amount of land used for non-agricultural uses.

These information requirements are in addition to the information required by Clause 35.07-4 of the Loddon Planning Scheme. This clause requires that an application to use a lot for a dwelling must be accompanied by a written statement which explains how the proposed dwelling responds to the decision guidelines for dwellings in the zone.

- b) Include the following policy statement in Clause 22.05 of the Loddon planning Scheme to provide guidance to applications for dwellings in the Rural Conservation Zone.

New dwellings in the Rural Conservation Zone will be supported where it is demonstrated that the dwelling is associated with the management of biodiversity and native vegetation on the land. Proposals for new dwellings need to demonstrate that landscape and environmental values are considered, protected and enhanced and that dwellings are compatible with the environmental characteristics of the area.

- c) Include a statement in the MSS that identifies the future of the Loddon River corridor is for agriculture due to the existing and future value. Housing should be minimised beyond existing urban areas.

Recommendation 14:

Incorporate the following policy statement into the Municipal Strategic Statement of the Loddon Planning Scheme to guide the assessment of proposals to establish renewable energy facilities:

Renewable energy facilities will be supported in Loddon but should not be located on high quality agricultural land, in particular, not on land that is and is likely to remain irrigated (or may be irrigated in the future) due to soil type or access to irrigation infrastructure.

Recommendation 15:

Incorporate the following policy statement into the Municipal Strategic Statement of the Loddon Planning Scheme to guide the assessment of proposals to establish rural industry:

It is preferable that rural industry be located within existing urban areas to capitalise on infrastructure and contribute to the employment options, viability and vibrancy of the town and minimise loss of farmland.

Rural industry should only be located in rural areas where:

- Amenity impacts of the industry make it unsuitable for an urban area;
- Existing road infrastructure is suitable for the traffic to be generated by the industry;
- The industry will not compromise agricultural use of surrounding land;
- There are clear advantages of locating the industry in the rural area that outweigh the advantages of locating it in an urban area

Accordingly the draft review document has been amended to reflect the above changes and is now presented to Council in its final format for formal adoption (see attachment).

Pending adoption of the Loddon Shire Rural Zones Review an amendment to the planning scheme shall be prepared. It is envisaged that formal exhibition of the adopted recommendations will occur mid 2012 as part of the amendment process at which time interested parties will be provided a further opportunity to make submissions and provide input.

Councillors discussed a potential conflict of interest in relation to the Laanecoorie Riverside Reserve due to membership on the Committee of Management of Cr Curnow and Cr Brownbill.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brownbill Seconded: Cr Brooke

That Council consider the Rural Zones Review excluding the Laanecoorie Riverside Reserve and that this reserve be considered as a separate report.

Carried

The review recommends that three parcels of land in the Brenanah area be re-zoned as Rural Conservation Zone and Rural Living Zone. The owner of this land, Mr Leech, has made a submission to Council that these parcels of land are used for agricultural purposes, and it is important that they remain as Farming Zone.

The parcels of land are Crown Allotments 23A~B, 23~B, 23B~ B Parish of Wehla.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That Council amend the Rural Zones Review proposal so that the three allotments – Crown Allotments 23A~B, 23~B, 23B~ B Parish of Wehla – remain as Farming Zone.

Carried

Cr Brownbill moved for an amendment to recommendation 13, to remove section (c) from the Rural Zones Review.

Cr Brownbill's motion was not supported.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council

1. Adopt the Rural Zones Review as amended, including the alterations made in accordance with Council deliberations conducted at the Special Forum held on 16 March 2012.
2. Resolve to prepare amendments to the Loddon Planning Scheme to implement the recommendations of the Rural Zones Review.

Carried

7.2a RURAL ZONES REVIEW – LAANECOORIE RIVERSIDE RESERVE

SUMMARY

Seeking Council adoption of the final version of the Rural Zones Review proposal for the Laanecoorie Riverside Reserve.

Author: Tyson Sutton – Manager Planning and Local Laws
File No: 13/01/001
Attachment: Rural Zones Review

Cr Curnow declared a conflict of interest. The nature of the interest is an indirect interest due to being an office holder on the Laanecoorie Riverside Reserve Committee of Management.

Cr Brownbill declared a conflict of interest. The nature of the interest is an indirect interest due to being an office holder on the Laanecoorie Riverside Reserve Committee of Management.

Cr Curnow and Cr Brownbill left the chambers at 4.55pm.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council include the Laanecoorie Riverside Reserve in the adopted Rural Zones Review proposal.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke **Seconded: Cr Holt**

That Council include the Laanecoorie Riverside Reserve in the adopted Rural Zones Review proposal.

Carried

Cr Curnow and Cr Brownbill returned to chambers at 4.57pm.

7.3 2011/2013 FLOOD RESTORATION PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY

Report outlines Councils progress in the delivery of the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program to the period ending March 31st 2012.

Author: Steven Phillips, Manager Works
File No: 14/01/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the progress of the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Council received and adopted the 2011/2012 Works Program that included the Flood Restoration Program at the August 2011 ordinary Council Meeting.

Council is being provided with quarterly updates as to the progress in delivery of the flood program.

BACKGROUND

This report is to inform Council of the progress of the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program component of the Works Program.

In March 2011 a claim for \$22,422,329.00 for costs to repair the damage caused by the flooding that occurred between September 2010 and January 2011 was submitted to the Natural Disaster Financial Assistance Council. The Claim was approved on 14th March 2011.

A second claim for repair of damage caused by the flooding between September 2010 and January 2011 has been submitted for \$8,281,664 to the Natural Disaster Financial Assistance Council. Approval of this claim is still pending.

The delivery of works contained within the flood program commenced in March 2011 with the final delivery date estimated as 31st May 2013, this assumes a program life of 27 months. At the end of this time all works relating to the Program need to be completed to allow for finalisation of expenditure prior to the end of the 2012/2013 financial year.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The following table outlines the total number of jobs included in the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program and the number of jobs that have been completed:

Year 1 2011/2012	Program	Completed	% Completed
Quarter 1	93	85	91%
Quarter 2	207	154	74%
Quarter 3	170	92	54%
Quarter 4	166	100	60%
TBA	173	23	13%
Subtotal	809	454	56%

Year 2 2012/2013			
Quarter 1	243	118	49%
Quarter 2	237	95	40%
Quarter 3	227	69	30%
Quarter 4	174	65	37%
TBA	3	0	0%
Subtotal	884	347	39%

TOTAL	1693	801	47%
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The above tables indicate that 47% of the total works within the Program have been completed to end of the 3rd quarter 2011/2012.

As seen above a number of jobs have already been completed from each quarter in both years one and two of the Program. This is a result of the nature of the damage caused by the flood events and the requirement to respond to Works Requests that are flood related.

The ability to be flexible in the delivery of the Program has enabled Council to respond to Work Requests, weather conditions and ground conditions, therefore allowing for efficiencies to be gained in executing the Program.

The following table outlines the total activities within the Program and shows programmed versus total completed activities.

Activity	Programed	Completed	Units	% Completed
Local Road Grading	225.7	135.4	km	60%
Local Road Resheet	406.5	186.1	km	46%
Local Road Shoulder Sheet	58	39.2	km	68%
Local Road Construction	14	0.267	km	2%
Township Street Improvement	13	1	Jobs	8%
Township Drainage	1	0	Jobs	0%

Safety Program	8	5	Jobs	63%
Amenity Program	3	0	Jobs	0%
Local Bridges Culvert Construction	67	33	Jobs	49%
Local Floodway Culvert Construction	109	57	Jobs	52%

The above table indicates that 43% (as a weighted average) of the total activities within the Program have been completed to end of the 3rd quarter 2011/2012.

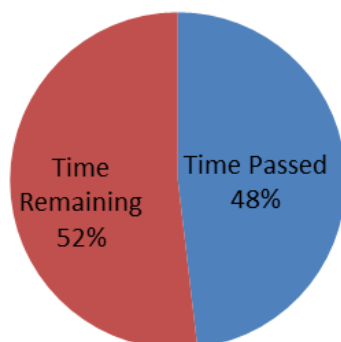
The following table outlines Council's total expenditure to end of the 3rd quarter 2011/2013 in delivering the Program:

Activity	Budget	Expenditure	%	Function Number
Local Road Grading	\$ 648,300	\$ 375,066	58%	360
Local Road Resheet	\$ 22,755,426	\$ 6,104,731	27%	352
Local Road Shoulder Sheet	\$ 2,671,268	\$ 689,929	26%	353
Local Road Construction	\$ 2,455,373	\$ 345,337	14%	351
Township Street Improvement	\$ 217,829	\$ 46,197	21%	356
Township Drainage	\$ 130,000	\$ 29,060	22%	371
Safety Program	\$ 25,956	\$ 9,911	38%	350
Amenity Program	\$ 500	\$ -	0%	349
Local Bridges Culvert Construction	\$ 931,632	\$ 839,356	90%	354
Local Floodway Culvert Construction	\$ 473,498	\$ 121,033	26%	359
TOTAL	\$ 30,309,781.40	\$ 8,560,618.42	28%	

The expenditure to end of the 3rd quarter 2011/2013 represents 28% of the total Budget and a breakdown by Activity can be seen in the above table.

A total of 27 months is available to deliver the Program of which 48% has passed. The following chart displays time passed and time remaining as a percentage of the total Program period:

Time Available



During the past 13 months of the program, the following activities have been completed:

- 47% of the total Program by jobs
- 47% of the total Program by activity
- 28% of the total Budget expended

Based on this information, progress of the Program is behind by 4% based on the total activities within the Program. This is due to the lag time required in developing the contract specifications required to tender out the components of the flood program that is to be delivered by contractors. It is anticipated that Council will be able to make up this shortfall and maintain the required progress to deliver the Program within the available time.

Council will receive a further updates on the progress of the delivery of the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program each quarter.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receive and note the progress of the 2011/2013 Flood Restoration Program.

Carried

8. DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY REPORTS

8.1 GOLDFIELDS TOURISM REGION STRUCTURE

SUMMARY

The future of the Goldfields Tourism region is currently under review. It is proposed that the region be restructured into two sub regions to better manage and market tourism product and experiences.

Author: Bryan McEwan
File No:
Attachment: Goldfields Regional Tourism structure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the 'Goldfields Tourism Region' report.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Nil.

BACKGROUND

The present Goldfields tourism region takes in the local government areas of Loddon, Bendigo, Mount Alexander, Central Goldfields and Ballarat.

The 'Regional Tourism Action Plan 2009 – 2012 (Published by Tourism Victoria), recommends change within the structure of regional tourism bodies to better reflect market changes, operating conditions and to more effectively enable change in, and development of, regional tourism product.

The aim of these changes is to ultimately create an environment which promotes economic growth and to create jobs in regional Victoria.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

An implementation committee for the Goldfields region has been formed to consider options for a new regional structure.

The committee consists of:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| - Erin Joyce: | Independent Chair (Tourism Marketing Consultant) |
| - Tom Seddon: | The Bendigo Trust |
| - Stan Liacos: | City of Greater Bendigo |
| - Garry Burns: | Sovereign Hill |
| - Peter Skillbeck: | Goldfields Campaign Committee |

- Rod Thomson:	Goldfields Campaign Committee
- George Sossi:	City of Ballarat
- David Leathem:	Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Bryan McEwan:	Loddon Shire Council
- Chris Meddows-Taylor:	Central Goldfields Shire Council
- Hamish MacLennan:	Parks Victoria
- Brendan Downey:	Tourism Victoria (Senior Manager)
- Shae Keenan:	Tourism Victoria Regional Representative
- Tom Smith:	Project Manager (Tourism Advisor. <i>Tourism Victoria</i>)

The review of the existing tourism regional structure quickly identified that there was sufficient justification to consider an alternative to the suggested Tourism Victoria model.

While the Tourism Victoria model suggests a single Regional Tourism Board (RTB) for each tourism region, a Goldfields model is proposed that would see the creation of two Regional Tourism Boards administered through a new entity, Goldfields Tourism Alliance Incorporated (GTA) (see attached proposed Goldfields Regional Tourism structure).

It is suggested that the Goldfields Tourism Alliance membership would be as follows:

- 2 nominees from Ballarat Tourism
- 2 nominees from Bendigo Tourism
- 1 nominee jointly nominated by Bendigo, Ballarat and Tourism Victoria (Chair)
- 1 Tourism Victoria Senior Manager
- 1 Parks Victoria nominee

Once the Goldfields Tourism Alliance is established, all future Tourism Victoria funding would then be directed to the Goldfields Tourism Alliance. Funding would then be allocated to region wide projects based on an annual plan determined by the Goldfields Tourism Alliance and agreed with Tourism Victoria in accordance with a standard General Service Agreement.

Funding for Goldfields region wide projects would be administered by the Goldfields Tourism Alliance.

The current funding to the Goldfields region:

- Tourism Victoria funding would be split between Bendigo and Ballarat Boards based on recommendations from the GTA.
- Funding for region wide projects will be administered via GTA.
- The current annual funding to the Goldfields region from Tourism Victoria incorporates grants for operations, marketing, tourism excellence and funding for visitvictoria.com listings.

Executive support to the Goldfields Tourism Alliance will be provided by Bendigo and Ballarat on a two-year rotational basis.

BENEFITS OF NEW STRUCTURE

Benefits of the new structure include:

- allows a level of autonomy for the two tourism boards
- recognises how the region is currently managed and operates along two separate corridors (Western and Calder Highways)
- provides a formal process to ensure issues of a region wide nature are adequately addressed
- eliminates any duplication of resources
- provides a structure that allows access to funding from a range of government departments (federal and state)
- provides the region with an increased level of control over regional wide issues based on the way each region operates, along distinct economic development and community of interest corridors
- brings the regional tourism structure in line with how each region operates from an economic development perspective
- has the support of operators and local government areas on the ground
- provides the best opportunity for operator buy in
- allows each region to fully develop its tourism industry
- protects existing goldfields marketing brands for the interstate and potentially international markets.

The creation of the Bendigo Regional Tourism Board will involve representation from the City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields (also represented on the Ballarat RTB), Mount Alexander and Loddon Shire Councils.

In addition, it is expected that the Bendigo RTB would also incorporate an independent chair; skills based members and a representative from Tourism Victoria.

The new structure is a move away from a Bendigo/Ballarat focussed Goldfields structure and will enable the creation of a more locally based tourism board. The new structure will enable direct representation by Loddon Shire Council (staff member) on the Bendigo RTB and will result in a greater opportunity for the development of Tourism in Loddon.

While the new structure has been endorsed by Tourism Victoria, the structure is not yet final.

Current progress includes the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between all LGA's involved and Tourism Victoria as a 'foundation document' to enable further progress.

Further reports to council on the progress of changes to the Goldfields region will be provided as the project proceeds.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council receive and note the 'Goldfields Tourism Region' report.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

8.2 LODDON SHIRE GALA EVENING 2012

SUMMARY

Loddon Shire Council to hold a gala evening in 2012 similar to the format of the excellence awards, to be held on 31 May 2012.

Author: Christine Coombes
File No: 13/09/001
Attachment: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the update on the Loddon Shire Council Event for 2012.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

March 2012: Loddon Shire Gala Evening to be held on Thursday May 24 at Serpentine Hall.

BACKGROUND

The 13th Loddon Powercor Excellence Awards were held at Wedderburn Mechanics Institute Hall on Friday 27 May 2011. Council has considered a number of options for the format of the event to be held on the alternate year to the Excellence Awards.

ISSUES/DISCUSSION

The Gala evening scheduled for May 24 has been rescheduled to be held on Thursday 31 May at the Serpentine Hall.

Entertainment of "Little brother, Big brother" and guest speaker Andrew Broad will remain as previously scheduled.

Two quotations were received for catering of the gala evening; however no local quotations were received. The preferred quotation was unable to provide service on May 24 however were available for the following Thursday, 31 May. The Two Sisters Catering has been engaged to provide pre-dinner canapés and a three course meal for the evening. The Two Sisters Catering has previously catered for five Excellence Awards evenings.

Tickets have been advertised for sale at \$50 per person pre-paid and \$55 per person at the door, with bookings essential.

Eaglehawk Party Hire has been hired to erect a marquee adjacent to the hall for the formal proceedings and sit down meal.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke

Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receive and note the update on the Loddon Shire Council Event for 2012.

Carried

UNCONFIRMED

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke **Seconded: Cr Brownbill**

That the following items be treated as urgent business.

Carried

9.1 **CONSIDERATION OF MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION VICTORIA STRATEGIC WORK PLAN**

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt **Seconded: Cr Beattie**

That Council review the draft MAV Strategic Work Plan and provide any feedback to the CEO as input for the preparation of a Council response to the Municipal Association of Victoria.

Carried

9.2 **PYRAMID HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**

Cr Brooke received a letter from the Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House seeking assistance from Council to help consider options for future accommodation, due to its current building being sold by the current owners.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke **Seconded: Cr Brownbill**

That Council direct the CEO to arrange a meeting with the Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House Committee of Management to help the Committee consider options for future accommodation of the Neighbourhood House.

Carried

9.3 **FIRE SERVICES LEVY**

The CEO reported that the Municipal Association of Victoria is hosting a meeting on 2 May to discuss a state government proposal that local government should collect a Fire Services Levy on its rates notices.

Council discussed its opposition to the proposal, including the need for full cost recovery of administrative costs, and clear processes for recovery of levy debt.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt **Seconded: Cr Brooke**

That Council firmly oppose the proposal that local government be required to collect the Fire Services Levy.

Carried

9.4 CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt **Seconded: Cr Beattie**

That the following items be treated as urgent business.

Carried

Cr Holt advised that some parliamentary members from Victoria are opposing the constitutional recognition of local government.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt **Seconded: Cr Brooke**

That Council write to state and federal members of parliament to seek their support for Constitutional Recognition of Local Government such that there is no impediment to the federal government providing funds directly to local government.

Carried

9.5 NEW PRESIDENT OF VICTORIAN FARMERS FEDERATION

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke **Seconded: Cr Brownbill**

That the following items be treated as urgent business.

Carried

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke **Seconded: Cr Beattie**

That Council send a letter of congratulations to the newly elected President of the Victorian Farmers Federation, Mr Peter Tuohey.

Carried

10. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Closing of Meeting to the Public

RECOMMENDATION

That the meeting be closed to the public.

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt Seconded: Cr Brooke

That the meeting be closed to the public at 5.45pm.

Carried

10.1 REVIEW OF ACTION SHEET

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke Seconded: Cr Brownbill

That the Action Sheet be received and noted.

Carried

10.2 PLANNING AND LOCAL LAWS COMPLIANCE REPORT

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke Seconded: Cr Holt

That Council receives and notes the Planning and Local Laws Compliance Report.

Carried

10.3 VISION SUPER 2010/11 ANNUAL REVIEW

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke Seconded: Cr Beattie

That Council receives and notes the Vision Super 2010/11 Annual Review Report.

Carried

10.4 COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET – MEETING DATES

No motion required.

10.5 SALE OF LAND - BOORT

MOTION

Moved: Cr Brooke **Seconded: Cr Holt**

That the following items be treated as urgent business.

Carried

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt **Seconded: Cr Brooke**

That Council arrange to sell the blocks of land in Boort and continue negotiations with interested parties.

Carried

10.6 REOPENING OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

MOTION

Moved: Cr Holt **Seconded: Cr Beattie**

That the meeting be reopened to the public at 6.05pm.

Carried

11. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Monday 28 May 2012 at Serpentine commencing at 3.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.05pm.

Confirmed this.....day of....., 2012

.....
Cr Geoff Curnow, Mayor